

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE CONFEDERATE CONSTITUTION—INTERESTING DISCLOSURES.

From the N. Y. Times.

As a piece of historical information, the letter of Mr. B. Barwell Rhet regarding the construction of the Confederate Constitution is both curious and valuable.

At the outset the dilemma presented to the Confederate leaders was this—whether, on the one hand, to cling as closely as possible to the old forms and the "old flag" of the United States, to the approved Constitution, and to the familiar divisions and prescribed scope of executive, legislative, and judicial authority, or to strike out in some new path, and essay a "more perfect Union."

Mr. Rhet declares that it was the determination of the South to make the Confederate Constitution "simply the Constitution of the United States as the South had always interpreted its powers, with only such alterations as would remove ambiguity."

"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States."

And what Mr. Rhet did was to substitute for the language here stated, namely, "to pay the debt," etc., the words "for revenue necessary to pay the debts and carry on the Government of the Confederacy"—which latter appears in the Confederate Constitution.

This, however, strikes one as being "the difference betwixt tweedledum and tweedledee," because whatever "misinterpretation" could be made of the original clause could certainly be made of the substitute.

Mr. Rhet tells us also the history of the internal improvement provision. To the regular commerce with foreign nations and among the several States and with the Indian tribes, "under which the Government was to expend money for internal improvements that were employed, was added the provision for the Confederate Congress 'should not appropriate money for any internal improvement intended to facilitate commerce.'"

It was Mr. Rhet, also, who proposed making the Presidential term six years instead of four—a really sensible suggestion, as the case proved, it made little difference, as that proposed the well-known provisions for removals from office by the President and for making constitutional amendments.

Professor Perry, an able advocate of free trade, has met Mr. Greeley, the champion of Chinese emigration, upon a common platform, and, as was inevitable, has triumphed over him.

and constructively defunct H. G. in the hour of his defeat. But we do wish to devote the dreadful consequences which will inevitably flow from the unlimited repetition of such a contest as that in which he has been worsted.

Such a multiplication of such a spectacle is prognosticated as inevitable. It is assumed that this sort of thing will infuse fresh vigor into the decrepit "lecture system," by adding to the lyceum the combative charm of the cock-pit without despoiling it of its own; and that the provincial lecture course will henceforth combine the intellectual interest of the discourses of Socrates under the plane trees of Athens with the livelier titillations of the bull-fights of Madrid.

Of course, we accept Milton's pious maxim, that truth is invincible so long as error is left free to combat it. But it does not therefore follow that we are bound to set up a controverted prize ring in every town, where economic champions shall be invited to pomel each other for hire.

Every point of view, we are pained at the prospect of assimilating the rostrum to the ring. Of course, exhibitions given confessedly for amusement would come, as in the case of the literal arena, upon exhibitions perpetrated ostensibly for instruction.

Besides, let the tax upon temper be considered. Our own charity has some times almost given way to the necessity of constant kicking, even in spirit, against the perversities of H. G. What, then, would be the effect upon mere fallible mortals, of encountering him personally upon a platform, and confuting him, not as through a newspaper dandy, but face to face?

THE MORMONS' APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AS A STATE.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The close proximity of the line of the Pacific Railroad to the centre of Mormonism has tended in a great measure to remove the isolation which the laborious apostle of the Mormons thought necessary for the establishment of his peculiar sect.

Perceiving in the progress and growth of the States that the institution which has cost him so much labor of thought and action stands in danger, Brigham Young has resolved upon a course of action which must prove a failure. On the 6th instant the semi-annual Mormon Conference assembled in Salt Lake City.

We do not advert to this calamity to embitter the feelings of the actually discomfited.

Congress at its next session. The fact of it emanating from one hundred and fifty thousand people anxious for self-government entitles it to thoughtful consideration.

NON-RECOGNITION.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The Government view of the Cuban question seems to be fully and semi-officially explained in a despatch from Washington. The reasons of the administration for not concurring in the action of four Spanish-American republics toward Cuba are founded on the condition of the island, the want of full proof that it has a government de facto, and upon the law of nations, which forbids recognition before a rebel has thus attained to the stature of a belligerent.

Our Washington authority avers that the government of Spain has not sought the assistance and sympathy of foreign powers. Of this we do not feel convinced. In a letter from Spain, which we deem trustworthy, we have been given what purports to be a veritable relation of Marshal Prim's interview with Napoleon.

Foreign Items.

It is stated in one of the French papers that the Hindoos in one of the provinces of Bombay have been much startled by the appearance of their god Vishnu, who has several times been seen at night whirling past them on a celestial wheel like a flash of fire.

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lugal follows with the moderate sum of \$133,000. Holland is content with an expenditure of \$109,000; Norway and Sweden with \$52,000; Denmark with \$18,000; Wurttemberg with \$44,000; and Rome with \$40,000.

An English paper says:—At the Hartford borough sessions an elderly man named Bourchier has been fined 2s. and 8s. costs, or in default sentenced to imprisonment for seven days, for refusing to attend morning prayers in the Hartford Union Workhouse.

WINES.

HER MAJESTY CHAMPAGNE, DUNTON & LUSSON, 215 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

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1871

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\$50,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan (for Pacific Railroad).

\$50,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan (for Pacific Railroad).

\$50,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan (for Pacific Railroad).

\$100,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per Cent. Loan (for Pacific Railroad).

\$50,000 Penn. Rail. Second Six Per Cent. Bonds (Penn. Railroad).

\$50,000 Penn. Rail. First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds (Penn. Railroad).

\$50,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent. Loan.

\$50,000 State of Tennessee Six Per Cent. Loan.

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City of New Orleans, Saturday, Oct. 16 at P. M. 10 o'clock. City of New York, Saturday, Oct. 16 at P. M. 10 o'clock.

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